

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

[19] Generally, the present invention is directed to a cover of a sliding/tilting roof of a vehicle having at least one movable slotted guide that is at least indirectly coupled to the cover and that causes the cover to move vertically and at least one profiled rail for horizontal shifting of the slotted guide between a raised position, an initial position, and a lowered position together with the cover along the profiled rail. In the raised position, the slotted guide is directly locked with the profiled rail with a positive fit, preventing horizontal displacement of the slotted guide in the direction of displacement. In the guide mechanism according to one embodiment of the invention, the slotted guide engages directly in the profiled rail and is positively locked therein to attain a very short force flow path and little susceptibility to cumulative tolerances. In addition, it may be possible to ~~save on~~ ~~reduce the number of~~ components or to design some components to exhibit reduced stability, resulting in a lower weight of the guide mechanism. "Positive fit" as used in this description means engagement in a form-fitting manner.

[28] The invention will now be described in greater detail below with respect to the drawings. Figure 1 illustrates one embodiment of the inventive guide mechanism for the a cover 10 of a sliding/tilting roof of a vehicle in a view from the side of the vehicle. The guide mechanism serves to bring the cover 10 into the different positions, namely, the raised position, the initial position (also referred to as closed position), and the lowered position, in which the cover together with the entire guide mechanism is moved to the rear to dive under the roof. Reference numeral 11 denotes the a roof edge defining the a roof cutout. Reference numeral 12 denotes the a rear edge of the cover 10, which is shown schematically only.

[30] A sliding block 22 in the form of a guide block 22 runs inside each guide track 20 and is adapted to be shifted by means of a rear guide shoe 24. The rear guide shoe 24 is adapted for horizontal shifting movement via a cable drive mechanism. The front and rear guide shoes 18, 24 are received for longitudinal sliding movement inside the profiled

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rail 14. The A rear edge 26 of the slotted guide 16 has a downwardly pointing nose 28 integrally molded to it. Below the nose 28, a bearing part 30 is received in the profiled rail 14 for horizontal sliding movement. The bearing part 30 carries a drain gutter 32. The bearing part 30 and the drain gutter 32 constitute a separate, preassembled unit. Immediately below the nose 28, the bearing part 30 features a recess 34 adapted in shape to receive the nose 28.

[33] In the raised position and in the initial position, predefined positions are required for the unit made up of the cover 10, the slotted guide 16 and the parts of the guide mechanism coupled to it and for the unit made up of the drain gutter 32 and the bearing parts part 30 on either side thereof. Any horizontal displacement needs to be prevented at these positions.

[35] The other unit, comprising the cover 10 along with the slotted guide 16 and the front and rear guide shoes 18, 24, is fixed in position horizontally by means of a positive locking connection directly between the slotted guide 16 and the profiled rail 14 via corresponding locking portions. In one embodiment, the slotted guide 16 has laterally projecting extensions 70 integrally molded to its side faces (see Figures 1 through 3, 5 and 6a and 6b) close to its swiveling axis A. The laterally projecting extensions 70 protrude into associated local recesses 72 in the upper webs 74 of the profiled rail 14. The positioning and the height of the extensions 70 is such that they will protrude into the recesses 72 in both the raised and the initial positions (Figures 1 and 2) and would strike against the webs 74 if an attempt were made to shift the slotted guide 16 and the cover 10 with it in a horizontal direction. On the other hand, the extensions 70 are positioned such that in the lowered position, they will move below the webs 74 and are then located fully within the space circumscribed by the profiled rail 14 (see Figure 3).

[37] When the cover 10 is to be raised, the rear guide shoe 24 is shifted forward, preferably driven by a motor. The sliding block 22 sliding along in the guide track 20 acts to swivel the slotted guide 16 upward (Figure 1). In the fully raised position, when the nose 28 has cleared the recess 34, the unit comprising the slotted guide 16 and the cover

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10 is completely decoupled mechanically from the unit including the drain gutter 32. In this position, the two units are locked against horizontal displacement by the associated extensions 70 and by the latching hook 44, respectively (i.e. by arrangements of their own for locking these two units in position).

[38] When the cover 10 is to be shifted to the rear, the rear edge 12 thereof needs to dive below the level of the edge 11. The rear guide shoe 24 is therefore shifted to the rear (Figure 3). In the lowered position, the extensions 70 will dive below the webs 74, as discussed above (Figure 3). The rear guide shoe 24 is shifted further to the rear so that a wedge-shaped extension 80 thereon, which projects toward the latching hook 44 (Figures 2 and 4), engages lateral tappets 82 provided on the latching hook 44 to move the latter upward into a disengaged position. The two units coupled with each other may now be shifted horizontally together.